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August 13, 1942.

Mrs. Effa Manley,  
Business Manager,  
Newark Eagles Baseball Club,  
71 Crawford Street,  
Newark, New Jersey.

Dear Mrs. Manley:

I am sending you the telegram which I received from Senator Smathers in respect to the matters concerning the raiding of Colored baseball players of the various clubs of the American and National Negro Baseball Leagues.

After the receipt of this telegram I filled the engagement and had a very encouraging conversation with Mr. Haig of the State Department. I left with him an exact copy of the letter which I wrote to Hon. Juan E. Richer, Consul for Mexico at New York City, on July 22, 1942, and also a copy of the letter concerning Willie Wells. Mr. Haig took notes from the original contracts made by the Newark Eagles Baseball Club with Montford Irvin and Raymond Dandridge.

Because of the international nature of this matter, Mr. Haig has no authority to give me a definite answer concerning the actions of the State Department. The matter will have to be taken up by him with one of the Under-Secretaries.

After going into the matter thoroughly with Mr. Haig, who seemed to be very conversant with the baseball situation here in the United States and as it concerns Negro professionals, he seemed to be very much in sympathy with our efforts but stated that he was not quite certain about having Irvin and Dandridge brought back forthwith to this country. However I feel confident that the raiding practices of these foreign exploiters of our baseball players will be prevented in the future. Some definite action will be taken by which both Negro Leagues will be greatly benefitted.

I was told that I would have to make one or two other trips to Washington, D.C. to confer with and argue my case before the "Higher-ups" in the State Department. I stated that I was willing to do this at any time.

I am taking the liberty to tell you that I believe this matter will be dealt with more forcibly and honestly than it was dealt with at the time that it was laid before the State Depart-



Mrs. Effa Manley

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ment some time ago and by the various officers of your Baseball League.

Please be good enough to lay this matter before the body of Club Owners of your League in order that I might know just what their attitude is concerning our efforts and before I go further in the matter.

Yours very truly,

RSH/m  
Enc. (1)

*R. H. Hartgrove*